

Message Text

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62

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 PA-01 USIA-06

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R 091210Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

T RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 6271

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

INFO CINCLANT

COMICEDEFOR

CNO WASHDC

SECDEF WASHDC

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE VALLETTA 0772

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, PFOR, MT, IC

SUBJECT: EUGENE ROSTOW'S VISIT TO MATLA

REF: REYKJAVIK 0749, 0761, 0764

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1. FORMER DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY EUGENE ROSTOW ALSO VISITED

MALTA JUNE 6-10 AS A GUEST OF THE MALTA ATLANTIC ASSOCIATION. UNLIKE HIS STOPOVER IN REYKJAVIK, HOWEVER, ROSTOW'S STAY IN MALTA RECEIVED LITTLE PUBLIC ATTENTION AND DID NOT PRODUCE ANY FIREWORKS.

2. ROSTOW'S VISIT HERE WAS TREATED AS A PRIVATE, ALMOST PROPRIETARY, ONE BY NATIONALIST (OPPOSITION) PARLIAMENTARIAN MARIO FELICE, CHAIRMAN OF THE MALTA ATA SOCIETY. ALTHOUGH EMBOFF EMT MR. AND MRS. ROSTOW AT SMALL PRIVATE DINNER GIVEN BY FELICE, THE ABSENCE OF THE AMBASSADOR (WHO WAS IN WASHINGTON ON CONSULTATIONS), ROSTOW DID NOT VISIT THE EMBASSY OR ACCEPT OUR OFFER OF EMBASSY ASSISTANCE OR BRIEFING DURING HIS STAY. ROSTOW HAD A PRIVATE MEETINGS WITH FELICE AND HIS ASSOCIATES, BUT DID NOT MAKE ANY SPEECHES OR PUBLIC STATEMENTS WHILE IN MALTA.

3. COMMENT: ROSTOW'S GRATUITOUS COMMENTS ABOUT COMMUNISTS IN MALTA ALMOST CERTAINLY RESULTED FROM HIS EXPOSURE TO FELICE AND OTHER STRONGLY ANTI-MINTOFFIAN MEMBERS OF THE MALTA ATLANTIC ASSOCIATION. THE MALTESE NATIONALIST PARTY DOES TEND TO SEE COMMUNISTS UNDER MINTOFF'S BED FROM TIME TO TIME, WHILE THE LABOR PARTY, WITH INCREASING FREQUENCY, ACCUSES THE NATIONALISTS OF BEING FASCISTS. ALL OF THIS HAS MORE TO DO WITH THE FORTHCOMING MALTESE PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS THAN ANYTHING ELSE, AND DEFINITELY IS A FAR CRY FROM RECENT EVENTS IN PORTUGAL, OR ICELANDIC POLITICAL PROBLEMS, DESPITE ROSTOW'S REPORTED LINKAGE OF DEVELOPMENTS IN THE THREE COUNTRIES. SMITH

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